

**Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

**MINISTRY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Directorate for Programming, Coordination and Environmental Information**

**GEF-5/ STAR NATIONAL PORTFOLIO  
FORMULATION DOCUMENT FOR  
MAURITANIA**

## **PREFACE**

Mauritania is one of the Sahelian countries most severely affected by periods of drought and other environmental hazards. Indeed, depletion of the natural resources, in particular vegetation, has adversely affected the ecosystems and the livelihood of rural households that depend on the exploitation of these resources.

Mauritania therefore decided to take action through international cooperation, by ratifying all of the international conventions relating to environmental management and governance and actively seeking ways to optimize support from multilateral financial cooperation institutions and, more specifically, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), currently the world's largest funder of environmental projects.

In order to honor the commitments stemming from these conventions and ensure significant progress in the areas of ecosystem conservation and poverty reduction, cooperation between Mauritania and the GEF has, in recent years, facilitated the nationwide implementation of a considerable number of projects and environmental initiatives.

While much remains to be done and we must continue to push forward in our efforts to learn about and master this synergy approach, our goal is to replicate and extend this promising approach to the entire financial cooperation context.

This is the challenge addressed by the GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise in Mauritania, which involved the requisite inclusive consultation and pragmatic and strategic reasoning.

***Amedi Camara***

**Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the  
Environment and Sustainable Development (MDEDD)**

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCC	Adaptation to Climate Change
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADER	Rural Electrification Agency [ <i>Agence de Développement de l'Électrification Rurale</i> ]
ADU	Urban Development Agency [ <i>Agence de Développement Urbain</i> ]
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AFD	<i>Agence Française de Développement</i>
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGL	Local Management Agency
AGPO	Association for the Management of the Oasis Program [ <i>Association de Gestion du Programme des Oasis</i> ]
ANEPA	National Water and Sanitation Agency [ <i>Agence Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement</i> ]
APAUS	Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services [ <i>Agence de Promotion de l'Accès Universel</i> ]
APE	Poverty-Environment Initiative
BD	Bidding documents
BW	Biomedical waste
CASAMPAC	Community and fishing training center [ <i>Centre D'Animation Sociale et d'Apprentissage aux Métiers de Pêche</i> ]
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBRD	Community-Based Rural Development project
CBWM	Community-Based Watershed Management project
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CCIAM	Mauritania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
CCSM	Maritime Rescue Coordination Center [ <i>Centre de Coordination et Sauvetage en Mer</i> ]
CCSP	Central Supervision and Management Unit [ <i>Cellule Centrale de Supervision et de Pilotage</i> ]
CDA	Community Development Association
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CET	Landfill [ <i>Centre d'Enfouissement Technique</i> ]
CILSS	Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ <i>Comité Inter Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel</i> ]
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CLAA	Center for Locust Control [ <i>Centre de Lutte Antiacridienne</i> ]
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
CNARM	National Chamber of Arts and Handicrafts
CNED	National Council for Environment and Development [ <i>Conseil National pour l'Environnement et le Développement</i> ]
CNERF	National Livestock and Veterinary Research Center [ <i>Centre National d'Élevage et de Recherche Vétérinaire</i> ]
CNHY	National Hydrocarbons Commission [ <i>Commission Nationale des Hydrocarbures</i> ]
CNPM	National Council of Employers in Mauritania
CNRE	National Water Resources Center
COP-MOP	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COS	Steering and Monitoring Committee [ <i>Comité d'Orientation et de Suivi</i> ]
CPAP	Country Program Action Plan
CRED	Regional Committee on the Environment and Development
CREPA	Regional Water and Sanitation Center [ <i>Centre Régional de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement</i> ]
CSP	Sahelian Pesticide Committee
CTED	Technical Committee for Environment and Development
CTIPE	Permanent Intersectoral Committee for the Environment [ <i>Comité Intersectoriel Permanent pour l'Environnement</i> ]
CTPC	Technical Steering and Coordination Committee [ <i>Comité Technique de Pilotage et de Coordination</i> ]
DAAF	Directorate for Administrative and Financial Affairs

DAPL	Directorate for Protected Areas and Coastal Zones [ <i>Direction des Aires Protégées et du Littoral</i> ]
DCE	Directorate for Environmental Monitoring
DES	Domestic Energy Strategy
DGS	Document Management System
DMM	Directorate of the Merchant Navy
DPCIC	Directorate for Programming, Intersectoral Coordination and Cooperation [ <i>Direction de la programmation, de la Coordination, Intersectorielle et de la Coopération</i> ]
DPN	Nature Protection Directorate
DPUE	Directorate responsible for Environmental Pollution and Emergencies [ <i>Direction des Pollutions et des Urgences Environnementales</i> ]
DRCI	Directorate for Regulations and International Conventions [ <i>Direction de la Réglementation et des Conventions Internationales</i> ]
DSPCM	Offshore Inspection and Fisheries Surveillance Directorate [ <i>Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle en Mer</i> ]
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Information System
ENEMP	National Fishery and Maritime School [ <i>Ecole Nationale d'Enseignement Maritime et des Pêches</i> ]
ENFVA	National School for Agricultural Training and Extension [ <i>Ecole Nationale de Formation et Vulgarisation Agricole</i> ]
EPBR	Baie du Repos Port Facility
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FFEM	French Global Environment Fund
FIC	Community Intervention Fund [ <i>Fonds d'Intervention Communautaire</i> ]
FIE	Environment Intervention Fund [ <i>Fonds d'Intervention pour l'Environnement</i> ]
FLE	Framework Law on the Environment
FMT	Mauritanian Tourism Federation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GMO	Genetically modified organism
GNAP	National Group of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Associations [ <i>Groupement National des Associations Agro-sylvo Pastorales</i> ]
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IGA	Income-generating activity
IMAO	Mangrove in West Africa Initiative
IMROP	Mauritanian Institute for Oceanographic and Fisheries Research [ <i>Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches</i> ]
INRSP	National Public Health Research Institute [ <i>Institut National Recherche en Sante Publique</i> ]
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISSET	<i>Institut Supérieur de l'Enseignement Technique</i>
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDC	Least developed country
LNTP	National Public Works Laboratory
MAED	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development
MAVA	Swiss Foundation for the Protection of Nature
MDEDD	Ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Sustainable Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDRE	Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MEPP	Mauritanian oil depot [ <i>Mauritanie des Entrepôts des Produits Pétroliers</i> ]

MH	Ministry of Water
MMI	Ministry of Mines and Industry
MPE	Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
MPEM	Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy
MPN	Nouakchott fish market
MS	Ministry of Health
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NAPCD	National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NEX	National Execution procedures
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NICT	New Information and Communication Technologies
NPFD	National Portfolio Formulation Document
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NRM	Natural resource management
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NTT	National Technical Team
ODS	Ozone-depleting substance
OMRG	Mauritanian Geological Research Board [ <i>Office Mauritanien des Recherches Géologiques</i> ]
ONISPA	National Sanitation Inspection Office for Fishery and Fish Farming Products [ <i>Office Nationale d'Inspection Sanitaire des Produits de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture</i> ]
PACD	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification
PAGEP	Petroleum Management Support Project [ <i>Projet d'Appui à la Gestion du Pétrole</i> ]
PAN	Autonomous Port of Nouadhibou
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PDCO	Community Oasis Development Program [ <i>Programme du Développement Communautaire des Oasis</i> ]
PDDO	Oasis Development Program [ <i>Programme du Développement des Oasis</i> ]
PDLCD	Master Plan to Combat Desertification
PDU	Urban Development Program
PE	Program Estimate
PED	Domestic Energy Program in the Sahel
PGRNF	Natural Forest Resource Management Project [ <i>Projet de Gestion des Ressources Naturelles Forestières</i> ]
PNBA	Banc d'Arguin National Park
PND	Diawling National Park
POLMAR	Plan to Combat Marine Pollution
POP	Persistent organic pollutants
PRCM	Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Program
PRECASP	Public Sector Capacity-Building Program
PREDAS	Program for the Promotion of Domestic and Alternative Energies [ <i>Programme de Développement de Promotion des Energies Domestiques</i> ]
PRISM	Mining Sector Institutional Strengthening Project
ProGRN	Natural Resource Management Program
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSPVN	Special Protection Program for the City of Nouakchott
RAP	Regional Action Program
SAN	Nouakchott Abattoir Company [ <i>Société des Abattoirs de Nouakchott</i> ]
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	Department in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SISEI	Internet Information and Monitoring System for the Environment
SMCP	Mauritanian Fish Marketing Company [ <i>Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation du Poisson</i> ]
SMH	Mauritanian Hydrocarbons Corporation [ <i>Société Mauritanienne des Hydrocarbures</i> ]

SNAT	National Land Management Plan
SNDE	National Water Company [ <i>Société Nationale de l'Eau</i> ]
SNFP	National company responsible for drilling boreholes and wells [ <i>Société Nationale des Forages et des Puits</i> ]
SNIM	National Industrial and Mining Company [ <i>Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière</i> ]
SOMAGAZ	Mauritania Gas Company [ <i>Société Mauritanienne de Gaz Butane</i> ]
SOMELEC	Mauritania Power Company [ <i>Société Mauritanienne d'Electricité</i> ]
SOMIR	Mauritanian Refinery Industries Corporation [ <i>Société Mauritanienne des Industries et de Raffinage</i> ]
SONADER	National Rural Development Authority [ <i>Société Nationale du Développement Rural</i> ]
SONIDEX	National Import and Export Company [ <i>Société Nationale d'Importation et d'Exportation</i> ]
SRAP	Subregional Action Program
SSO	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TFP	Technical and financial partner
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCOD	United Nations Conference on Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNPFA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelien Office
URDO	Regional Oasis Development Unit [ <i>Unité Régionale de Développement des Oasis</i> ]
USGAF	Monitoring and Administrative Management Unit [ <i>Unité de Suivi et de Gestion Administrative</i> ]
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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## **The Process – Framework and Context**

*(See Annex 1 for the Terms of Reference for the GEF-5 national portfolio formulation exercise for Mauritania.)*

The creation in 2007 of the Ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment (MDE) stemmed from the Mauritanian Government's recognition of the need to formulate an environmental management policy to address not only the host of environmental challenges facing the country, but also those, in particular global ones, that Mauritania must prepare itself to tackle in the future.

Indeed, while desertification—which is caused by significant rainfall deficits—has been the primary concern in the area of environmental management since the 1970s and 1980s, major changes have been undertaken since the 1990s and 2000s. The development of prospecting and exploitation activities in the mining and hydrocarbon sectors, uncontrolled urbanization, and heavy maritime traffic linked, among other things, to fishing activities and infrastructure are some of the environmental challenges that must be addressed effectively.

In order to meet these challenges, the Ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MDEDD) must have a clear and coherent environmental strategy, an effective institutional structure and administrative and financial organization, competent human resources that can carry out the various missions and tasks assigned to the Ministry, and the appropriate logistical resources.

To achieve these goals, several activities have been executed since 2006: The National Sustainable Development Strategy and the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) were formulated and are in the process of being implemented. Personnel training plans were designed and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development now has three years' experience in environmental management and policy in Mauritania.

In 2009 the Ministry's mandate was expanded to include sustainable development. Its current overall mandate is to prepare, coordinate, execute, monitor, and evaluate the Government's environment policy. It is also responsible for ensuring that sustainable development goals are incorporated into public policies and the management of spaces and natural resources.

This new crosscutting, multisectoral mandate has proved burdensome for a nascent ministry that, until quite recently, was almost exclusively responsible for nature protection. The MDEDD is therefore exploring ways to implement all the activities for which it is now responsible.

In this regard, it was necessary to assess the Ministry's human, material, and financial resources and make recommendations in order to ensure that the Ministry has the necessary capacities and skills.

With a view to earmarking GEF resources, facilitating understanding and clarification of the mandate given to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and formulating a capacity-building plan, this institutional process was launched to:

- Help the MDEDD clarify its mandate and assist it with preparations for implementation of the reforms, based on policy and national strategy papers on environmental management;

- Identify human, material, and financial needs required for carrying out its mandate;
- Assess the Ministry's current human, material, technical, and financial resources and its organizational structure, and compare these capacities with the needs required to effectively fulfill its responsibilities;
- Propose the most appropriate functional organizational chart that will integrate current capacities with the manner in which the Ministry should be organized to enable it to execute its mandate more effectively;
- Ensure that the proposed organizational chart is accompanied by a capacity-building plan and a training plan that take into account the career paths of current employees and civil servants.

(See TOR in Annex 1)

- The MDEDD is therefore the sole implementing authority for this exclusively consultative study.

### **1.1 Technical/Financial Partners Directly Involved**

The process was coordinated by the DPCIE, which is the GEF focal point in Mauritania. The key technical and financial partners of Mauritania's environment sector, including GEF agencies, which participated in this exercise, are:

- UNDP
- FAO
- UNEP
- FIDA
- **The World Bank**, through the Public Sector Capacity-Building Project (PRECASP), which paid the international consultant's fees and provided support, whenever needed, with accessing documentation, as well as through advisory services and the provision of office resources.
- **GIZ** (formerly GTZ), through its national resource management support program (ProGRN), which, at the request of the MDEDD, covered costs for three national consultants and travel throughout the regions, provided ongoing support, provided office space, and organized feedback sessions to report on progress.

### **1.2 Implementation and Supervision**

This exercise was conducted in close collaboration with all stakeholders and partners, using a multisectoral, participatory, and inclusive approach.

It was coordinated by the Directorate for Programming, Coordination, and Environmental Information (DPCIE) in the Ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MDEDD).

The focal points of the three thematic international conventions covered by GEF-5 were also heavily involved, through exchanges of correspondence between the MDEDD and its various counterpart government agencies and GEF agencies, which are all concerned with the issue of environmental management.

The study was conducted over forty-five days and was divided into three phases:

- **Phase 1: Analysis**

- Workshop to launch the process
- Road map provided by the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Sustainable Development;
- Establishment of a framework for the terms of reference;
- Establishment of an three-member *ad hoc* committee;
- Implementation
- Data collection and analysis of the documentation
- Discussions with the Minister and his staff
- Discussions and consultations with sector departments
- Discussions and consultations with other actors: local governments, civil society, private sector
- Discussions, assessment of the MDEDD's internal operations
- Feedback workshop on the analysis phase

- **Phase 2: Consolidation**

- Field mission in the Trarza, Brakna, Dakhlet Nouadhibou, Guidimagha, Tagant, Gorgol, and Hodh el Gharbi regions
- Data collection on the organization process and financial flows
- Preparation of proposals
- Pursuit of appropriate solutions for the training plan
- Pursuit of Francophone interuniversity partnerships

- **Phase 3: Proposals/Directions**

- Assessment of the MDEDD's capacities
- Drafting of the skills enhancement plan
- Validation of expected outputs
- Drafting/finalization of the process document
- Presentation of the final outcomes

## II. Overview of Mauritania's Environmental Profile

Mauritania is located in West Africa, between latitudes 15° and 22° N and longitudes 5° and 17° W. It is bounded to the north by the Western Sahara, Morocco, and Algeria; to the east by Mali; to the south by Mali and Senegal; and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, which extends from north to south for approximately 600 km along its coastline.



*Figure 1: Administrative map of Mauritania*

With an area of 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup> and an estimated population of 2,500,000, Mauritania has an abundance of resources. In addition to its iron ore deposits, the mining of which began in the pre-independence period, and its vast fishery resources, Mauritania is also an oil-exporting country. Furthermore, indications of the presence of precious metals in the subsoil signal a brighter future.

### II.1 Geologic Structure

Mauritania is divided into four geological zones:

- A Precambrian crystalline basement forming the Reguibat ridge and covering the entire northern region of the country, which extends under shallow, stable old basins characterized by old glaciations;
- The Taoudeni basin, a paleozoic basin in the east whose western section (Mauritania) has layers inclined toward the east;
- A Hercynian “Mauritanides” chain composed of crystalline and metamorphic rock, which bounds the basement rock in the west and is characterized by significant lateral movements;
- Two major superimposed Cenozoic basins: the secondary/tertiary Senegalese-Mauritanian basin turned toward the Atlantic Ocean and the basin that rises above it in the east. The filling of these basins has been taking place since the Mesozoic period.

## II.2 Relief

Mauritania’s relief has five [sic] main regions:

- The flat Saharan peneplains studded with inselbergs, extending from the north to the northwest of the country;
- Trab el Hajra, which consists of low plateaus and extends mainly to the central part of the country;
- The Hodh, an immense basin in the southeast, out of which rises Evellé, an old massif;
- The Majabat el Koubra, a vast desert in the east and one of the world’s most impenetrable deserts;
- The western plains, deep sand regions that extend to the west;
- The 600 km-long coastline is rocky in the north and sandy and rectilinear in the south.

## II.3 Soils

Mauritania has five types of soils:

The raw mineral soils of the deserts, so named because of their sparse vegetation, cover most of the Mauritanian land area where negligible rainfall and wide temperature variations allow for only some physical modifications of the hard rocks without affecting their composition. The virtually complete lack of vegetation essentially nullifies its effect on the soils.

These soils are classified into two groups:

Deposited soils: these soils are found in the great ergs, vast expanses covered with wind-borne sands (the Mreyé, Ouarane) that accumulate and stratify without consolidating. However, in the south, rainfall deposits small droplets of water that give the sand some cohesion; and

Ablated soils: these soils develop on well weathered rocks. They form regs (clayey plains) of coarse sand, gravel, or stones, the result of erosion of rocks by the wind (wind erosion). However, this action has varied considerably depending on the time period.

- Evolving young soils that are thicker than raw mineral desert soils

These include zonal soils that are formed on sedimentary rocks or sandy wind-swept terrain, and those that are not zonal but develop on sands in coastal zones or on relatively clayey, sandy terrain.

There are also still poorly evolved soils that form on marine or lacustrine deposits and are associated with saline soils.

- The isohumic soils found in the semi-arid zones are characterized by a rather high humus content that is derived from the breakdown of plant and animal life and decreases with depth. They have sufficient iron content to give them their reddish color. These are young or poorly developed soils.

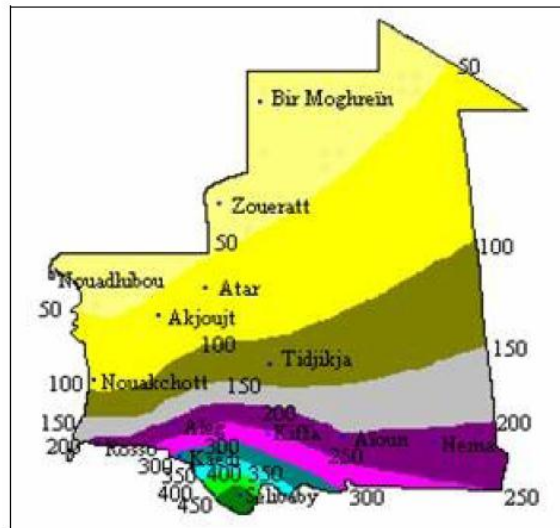
- Hydromorphic soils, the characteristics of which are due, in large measure, to the temporary or permanent presence of water; hence the origin of their name. They are found in the southern part of the country only, along the Senegalese border, where they developed on alluvia, or on clayey terrains in the Rkiz region. Whenever there is excess water, the land floods, and gley, hydromorphic soils can be found in these areas. Millet and rice are usually planted on these highly compact, impermeable soils.
- Lastly, the halomorphic soils: these are soils that contain sodium, potassium, and soluble chemical compounds. They are found in the coastal zone region or in basins that do not drain into the sea. These soils are extremely compact and impermeable, and the presence of the aforementioned chemical substances makes them ill-suited for farming.

## **II.4 Climate**

In broad terms, Mauritania has a hot, dry climate. However, owing to the combined influences of oceanic trade winds, the continental trade winds, monsoons, and the distance from the ocean, Mauritania can be divided into two main regions: the Sahara and the Sahel. These two regions are in turn subdivided into two zones: coastal and continental.

The coastal Sahara region (in northern Nouakchott) is characterized by constant humidity, low temperatures, limited diurnal and annual variations, and minimal rainfall, with the heaviest rains in autumn.

- The dry and warm conditions in the continental Sahara region are due to either the oceanic trade winds or the continental trade winds. This region is characterized by extreme diurnal and annual temperature variations, extremely dry air, very low rainfall that is rendered insignificant by the high temperatures and the resulting evaporation. It is thus the most arid climatic region in Mauritania.
- The oceanic trade winds give the coastal Sahel region its main characteristics: constant humidity, coolness, and limited temperature variations. However, summer rains are produced by the squall lines that develop from monsoons, which reach this region at the end of their course.
- The continental Sahel region has a more varied climate alternating between an extremely dry winter season and a rainy summer season. Temperatures are high with significant variations, especially in the Hodh depression. These temperatures fall slightly in midsummer. Owing to prolonged monsoon seasons, only the southern part benefits from significant rainfall (not exceeding four months) and a period that can be considered humid.



*Figure 2: Isohyet distribution for the period 1961-1990 (average)  
(Map prepared using rainfall data from AGRYMET/RIM)*

This brief presentation of Mauritania's climate would not be complete without reference to the issue of climate change and, in particular, the decline in rainfall, which has led to harsh conditions in the past three decades.

Over the past few millennia, temperate rains have been penetrating less deeply into the tropical interior while tropical rains produced by monsoons are gradually shifting southwards. It remains to be seen if this slow process will continue unabated.

Unfortunately, in view of the global warming trend observed in recent years and the negative position held by some authorities with respect to efforts to halt this trend, all indications are that this will be the case.

## **II.5 Hydrography**

As the entire country is located in either the arid Saharan or Sahelian zone, water is of paramount importance in regions where fossil aquifers are nonexistent. Low rainfall coupled with a very high evaporation rate and dry air result in very high evapotranspiration.

### **Surface waters**

Owing to its climate, Mauritania has no permanent body of water. The sandy wadi beds are fossilized rivers. While water flows in these wadis for a few days each year under the best conditions, this tends to happen every three or four years only. They are larger in the Sahelian zone where the Senegal River is fed by temporary tributaries. This hydrographic pattern plays a key role with respect to Mauritania's aquifer resources. Only the Senegal River, owing to its flow mainly into the Sudan zone, is a permanent body of water. The river ends in the Sahelian zone where there is a pattern of very high flood waters and very low water levels. The smell triggered by the rise in salt water levels, halted in recent years by the Diama dam, could be detected as far away as Dagana, prior to construction of the dam.

## **Aquifer reserves**



Mauritania's large hydrogeological divisions are linked to the geologic structure and type of reservoir rock:

The basement and the Mauritanides chain are composed of impermeable rocks that can only retain water on the surface in a very limited band in the Saharan zone. They may also have fissures (diaclasses or faults) that may contain water;

The Cenozoic basins are composed primarily of loose and therefore porous rocks. They contain the principal regional aquifers;

The Taoudeni basin lies between the basement and Cenozoic basins. It contains numerous low permeability rocks with fissures and layers suitable for water retention. Therefore, in addition to the alluvial aquifer in the Senegal River, there are also aquifers associated with the two types of basins and surface aquifers connected to impermeable bedrocks.

## II.6 Plant and Animal Life

The aridity, which steadily increases from the south to the north, the existence of a river in the southwest, and the large number of sebkhas explain the division of the plant landscapes into four major areas: the Senegal valley, the Sahel, salt flats, and the Sahara, within which vegetation is grouped according to soil properties: texture, water retention capacity, salinity, etc.

The valley, hard hit in recent years by droughts, once had several tree species, including the *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia sieberiana*, and the *Acacia seyal*, as well as the *Zizyphus mauritania*, *Bauhinia rufescens*, and *Crataea vareligiosa* species. A grass cover composed almost entirely of the *Vetiveria nigriflora* species developed further away from the river.

The river banks were habitats for crocodiles, the Seba python, warthogs, monkeys, and numerous migratory birds, including the red-tailed quelea birds that wreak havoc on crops. These plant and animal species have now been almost completely wiped out by the combined effects of climate and human activities.

The Sahel: until a few years ago, plant and animal life could thrive in the southern part of this Sahelian zone that is receding further and deeper into the south. Beautiful trees sprung out of a dense cover of tall grasses in the savanna landscapes of the past. In the north, clumps of acacia trees and tufts of grass formed a steppe landscape that was enhanced in the height of summer by verdant prairies, albeit for a short period. A variety of trees such as the *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), Acacias Sénégal, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Leptadeniapyrotechnica*, *Commiphora africana*, *Zizyphus mauritania* and the *Acacia seyal* could be found there.

The diverse fauna in the Sahelian zone had to adapt to the rather sparse vegetation available. Herbivores roamed large areas in search of food. Everywhere else, herds of gazelles ran across the regs and dunes. A few antelopes (*Oryx algazal*) could be found in the Hodh region. Carnivores such as jackals, leopards, caracals, hyenas, and cheetahs were commonplace. Numerous birds such as turtledoves, bustards, and guinea fowls clustered around water holes. Unfortunately, the devastating droughts of the past three decades have wiped out this plant and animal life. Only exceptionally resistant species remain today.

The Sahara is a mineral-rich area with extremely limited flora. In the Majabat al-Koubra region, vegetation finds shelter in a few preferred locations: the steep slopes of the massifs and wadi beds where oases nestle.

Elsewhere, the aheb, an ephemeral plant, springs up thanks to rare showers of rain. Two plant groups share the vast expanse:

The *Stipagrostis pungens* group is found in the sandy regions. It is characterized by large tufts composed of a perennial grass – the sbatt (*Stipagrostispungens*); and

The *Acacia tortilis ss. raddiana* group, which extends across the entire Reguibat ridge and along the Sahara's Atlantic coast north of the Akchar and Azeffal dunes. The herbaceous layer is composed primarily of merkba (*Panicum turgidum*). The Sahara has sparse fauna.

Among herbivores, only the Addax antelope (*Addax nasomaculatus*) is able to survive. The oryx is occasionally found in this area. A few Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) graze in the Adrar region. The fennec fox (*Fennecus zerda*), a carnivore, thrives in the dunes. Along the rocky coastline north of the Cap Blanc region, a few monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) shelter in caves.

The salt plains—inland areas of numerous sebkhas—form a narrow coastal strip that stretches from the Senegal Delta to Cap Blanc. The landscapes are flat, occasionally broken by groves of green tamarisks (*Tamarix senegalensis*). The bottomland is dotted with clumps of halophytes generally from the Chenopodiaceae family: *Salsola baryosma* and *Salicornia senegalensis*, highly prized by camels. Euphorbia bushes (spurge family) often cover the surrounding sandy strips.

The Banc d'Arguin Park boasts a particularly wide variety of fish and bird species. Over 108 bird species, including pink flamingos, egrets, herons, and pelicans, have been identified in this area. Millions of migratory birds from Greenland, Europe, and the Gulf of Guinea stop over in this national park that was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## **II.7 Economy**

In recent years, sweeping reforms in all areas have been undertaken and new opportunities for mining the subsoil's vast resources, in particular oil, have presented themselves, with a view to helping Mauritania begin the new millennium with hope and optimism.

Mauritania's economy currently depends on several sectors including the mining, industrial fishing, trade, and agropastoral sectors. Indeed, mining of the Zouerate iron ore deposits, in addition to the Akjoujt copper and gold deposits and the Ndghamcha gypsum deposits, had for a long time been the main export resources. Exploitation of fishery resources began in the early 1980s and is now Mauritania's chief source of income.

Trade also plays a pivotal role in the economy, which is to be expected in a country with ancestral trade traditions that served in the Middle Ages as the transit route for business caravans between North Africa and Africa south of the Sahara. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Mauritians have adapted extraordinarily well with globalization and with the rules and operations of international trade.

Lastly, the agropastoral sector, which accounts for 20 percent of GDP, is another equally important pillar in this economy. However, this sector is unfortunately subject to the vagaries of the climate and does not contribute to the goal of self-sufficiency with a view to food security. (Statistical data source: [www.tourisme.mr](http://www.tourisme.mr))

## **I.8 Tourism**

Mauritania has vast, largely untapped tourism resources: maritime waters reputed to be the richest fishing grounds in the world; pollution-free beaches; historic cities that are as old as the stones used to build them; a vast desert dotted with verdant oases; a vibrant and open culture; and an eternally blue sky.

The western side of Mauritania boasts some 600 kilometers of sandy coastline. A succession of endless pristine beaches. Dunes that dip into the ocean, lazy stretches of white sand lapped by the foamy waves and large sebkha basins where the sea receded a long time ago. Further to the north, cliffs hollowed out by the waves resemble stone sentinels facing the ocean. The coastal zone is suitable for a host of activities: seaside, sport (fishing, and sports that involve gliding such as skiing, surfing, windsurfing), scientific, etc.

In the interior, Mauritania's desert is a mineral region, under a majestic sun, where only the rumble of the grains of sand as they move over the crest of the dunes adds rhythm to the melody of the winds, and where starry nights are pure magic. Covering most of the Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant, the two Hodh, and northern Assaba regions, the Mauritanian desert is, behind its apparent uniformity, a juxtaposition of remarkable landscapes.

In the far south, the Senegal River Valley's relatively dense plant cover, picturesque villages perched on the river's high embankments, brightly colored local markets, robust border economic activity, linguistic diversity, and rich folklore, reveal an extraordinarily vibrant way of life.

Mauritania also has old cities, archeological sites, cave paintings, ethnographic and archeological objects, handicraft, and, notably, manuscripts of inestimable value, which bear witness, if need be, to the prestigious civilization of the Mauritanian people (Statistical data source: [www.ons.mr](http://www.ons.mr))

- **Mauritania, a Sahelo/Saharan country, is 60 percent desert.**
- **Its rich environmental and natural resources are especially fragile. It is subject to the effects of climate change, desertification, periodic shocks (droughts, locusts, etc.), and human pressure.**
- **Water resources are scarce or are not easily accessible**
- **The subsoil's natural resources and fishery resources, which have yet to be adequately assessed, are already subject to industrial exploitation.**
- **Underexploited tourism resources depend primarily on the quality of the environment.**
- **The overall picture reveals a fragile living environment that must be carefully managed using a sustainable development strategy.**

## **II.9 Thematic Programs and Projects Active during the Process**

### **II.9.1 Component C of the Public Sector Capacity-Building Project (PRECASP)**

Component C (Environment) of the PRECASP has a number of subcomponents:

- The National Environmental Information System [*Système National d'Information sur l'Environnement* NEIS], which is being allocated the sum of US\$400,000, is responsible for establishing a national network to exchange and process environmental information between the sector ministries. This EIS intends to organize a GIS/EIS workshop for the MDEDD to leverage the information from the national network;
- The subcomponent on coastal zones has been allocated US\$260,000 under Component C of the PRECASP. These activities are being planned with the PSPVN and are expected to facilitate the execution of studies pertaining to the bidding documents (BD) and other works expected in the context of PSPVN's coastal zone component;
- PRECASP's subcomponent on training is being allocated US\$250,000, and is expected to help launch priority training and refresher sessions as programmed by the Ministry;
- Specific actions: these include small-scale support and pertain to the section initially entitled "Support for the establishment of the new institutional framework." This section made offset printing of the NEAP possible. This support, for which terms of reference were prepared, was provided in February 2007 just ahead of the Multilateral Conference on Implementation of the NEAP, a major interministerial and technical conference organized by the Policy Department to help identify the terms and conditions for launching implementation of the NEAP. The Arabic version of the NEAP has been printed and the document is in the process of being trimmed.

The DPCIE is the focal point for this project, which is using a programmatic approach and is being financed by the World Bank through IDA to the tune of US\$1 million.

### **II.9.2 Natural Resource Management Program (ProGRN)**

The ProGRN is scheduled to last for a total of six years (2005–2010). A description of the second phase (January 2008–December 2010), which is being completed, is provided below.

The program was recently renewed and is based on natural resource management adapted to climate change and the sustainable management of fishery resources. The development of natural resources and cooperation with the private sector will be strengthened in the programs to be executed in the coming years.

The overall objective of the program underway is as follows: "In the selected areas, the population and the authorities will manage the natural resources sustainably."

The total amount of the German contribution to ProGRN for direct allocations from GIZ for the second phase (2008–2010) is EURO 6,842,000 (UM 2,460,000,000).

The program's design provides for the implementation of four separate components that underscore ProGRN's intervention approach at the various levels:

- **Environmental policy advice;**
- **Decentralized natural resource management in the Guidimakha and Hodh el Gharbi regions;**
- **Management advisory services for the Banc d'Arguin National Park; and**
- **Greater coherence in support in the sector.**

The National Environment Action Plan (NEAP, 2006) is the frame of reference. In the sector in question, ProGRN is notable for the fact that it links policy and technical advisory and support services to national institutions with long-term decentralized advisory and support services with a view to implementation of regional and local activities.

Under Component 2, a project initiated by the German Financial Cooperation on the rehabilitation and development of arable land downstream of the watersheds is being implemented in the Guidimakha region.

ProGRN provides conceptual, methodological, technical, and logistical support at several levels to a plethora of actors.

- Component 1 focuses in particular on the drafting of regulations and preparation of legal conditions, the proposal for organizational adjustments, and support with policy formulation (services). It enables ministerial departments to better undertake and control natural resource management (use of services). The political and legal framework and its institutional implementation based on environmentally friendly management of resources (including raw materials) are being improved.
- Component 2 aims to provide advisory services to and training for various actors in the Hodh el Gharbi and Guidimakha regions in the adoption and use of the decentralized resource management model (services). User associations coordinate, with assistance from the authorities, compliance with user rules adopted through surveillance and collection of corresponding fees (use of services). The inter village group is implementing local conventions with a view to sustainable natural resources management.
- Component 3 targets the Banc d'Arguin National Park and includes a training and advisory activity for the development of management instruments and their implementation, as well as the establishment of a trust fund (services). The corresponding instruments are then implemented independently (use of services). The PNBA's management is, in cooperation with the Park's residents and the commune of Mamghar, performing its tasks in accordance with the mandate given to it.
- Component 4 focuses on ensuring coherence in support in the sector. To that end, a host of meetings and events were organized with a view to promoting discussion and linkages (services). They will in turn lead to harmonization of approaches and development of a program-based NEAP in the various implementing agencies.

### **II.9.3 UNDP's Country Program Action Plan (CPAP)**

The Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) is a portfolio of activities that was signed between the Ministry and the UNDP Office and included in the three-party document (Ministry of Environment/MEAD, and UNDP).

The 2009-2011 CPAP program is being implemented in accordance with UNDP's National Execution (NEX) procedures. In addition to the MDEDD, the MEAD, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, and the Ministry of Land Management, Housing, and Urban Development are all participating in this project.

This program, which was developed using a participatory process that brought together the other development partners and involved the active participation of the Government, will be implemented in accordance with National Execution (NEX) procedures. With respect to the national execution procedure, the program is the property of the Government, which will be responsible for its administration and oversight. The Government is therefore responsible for achieving the program's identified outcomes. In order to be able to take on this responsibility, the national entities are receiving the requisite technical skills enhancement training.

The CPAP's traditional structure comprises the following:

A steering body: the Steering and Monitoring Committee (COS) comprising the ministers; a supervisory body: the Technical Steering and Coordination Committee (CTPC) comprising the central administration directors, known as program focal points; a consultation body: the Specialized Technical Committee (CTS) composed of the program expert, the project coordinators, and the heads of the agencies involved; a coordination and M/E body: the Central Supervision and Management Unit (CCSP), which is responsible for coordination of the program and is based at the MEF; implementing entities: Focal Points and UNDP service center; a monitoring and administrative and financial management unit (USGAF).

The DPCIE is the Focal Point for this program that relates to several projects based at the DAPL, DPUE, and DPN. Five ministries are participating in the UNDP Country Program based at the MEAD (CCSP).

#### **II.9.4 WFP Country Program 2003-2010/Natural Resource Component**

This program is based at the DPN and the Focal Point is the Director of the DPN. Financing is provided by the national budget, with counterpart funding from the WFP.

The Program seeks to reforest 50,000 hectares each year, a target that is often fully achieved. However, it suffers from a lack of **(i)** personnel; **(ii)** technical supervision resources; **(iii)** monitoring and evaluation of reforestation activities; and **(iv)** transportation resources. The Program is also grappling with water protection problems. The Program's results have fallen short of expectations and addressing concerns (desertification and the domestic energy issue). Mauritania loses 4 million trees each year and the allocated budget only allows for the planting of approximately 40,000 trees, which represents one percent of the trees that have been lost.

#### **II.9.5 The Poverty-Environment Initiative**

The Poverty-Environment initiative is being financed by UNEP (US\$500,000). It is also an integral and important part of the CPAP portfolio with respect to the environment and sustainable development.

This project has its own coordination unit and steering committee. During start-up, it encountered a number of difficulties inherent in the absence of a project document. In fact, only a Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNEP and UNDP, which entrusts the task of monitoring project implementation to UNEP, is in place. The Government was, regrettably, not involved in the project set-up phase.

UNEP, UNDP, and the Coordination Office will invite the Government to participate in planned discussions in order to decide on the future of this project and its implementation procedures. Indeed, the organization of discussions does appear to be critical in order to assess the various challenges facing this project.

### **II.9.6 Partnership for the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the Context of Oil and Gas Mining**

This GEF project will begin in January 2011, and will be implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the MDEDD, IUCN, and other partners.

The national director is the General Director of the PNBA and financing totaling US\$1,200,000 will be provided by GEF.

The objective of the project is to create synergy between the actors involved in marine and coastal biodiversity management. It aims to mitigate impacts caused by the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas resources in the Mauritanian offshore area, and to build the capacity of the main marine and coastal biodiversity actors, particularly the MDEDD.

One of this project's components supports the establishment of a trust fund for the sustainable management of the resources of the Banc d'Arguin National Park.

### **II.9.7 Adaptation to Climate and Coastal Change (ACCC) Project**

The DAPL is the base for this program being financed by the GEF, UNDP, UNESCO, and the Government of Mauritania. Total funding for the program amounts to US\$572,200, and the program is scheduled to be completed in December 2011. The current available assessment shows the stabilization of a two- kilometer segment along the coast.

The overall objective is to maintain or increase the resilience to climate change of ecosystems along the Canary Current coast. The specific objectives are as follows:

Better integrate climate change issues into ongoing or planned activities that seek to preserve the integrity of the ecosystems, especially the management and use of biodiversity resources; and

Maintain the stability of ecosystems, taking into account climate change, in order to improve biodiversity management.

The expected outcomes are:

The implementation of pilot activities to strengthen adaptation capacity and the resilience of coastal ecosystems in regions vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

The incorporation of issues related to climate change and adaptation into coastal zone management policies and programs; and

The ramping up of efforts to combat coastal erosion and capacity building in the area of coastal management and planning.

### **II.9.8 West Africa Mangrove Initiative (WAMI)**

The WAMI project is a subregional project that seeks to improve the well-being and security of mangrove dependent communities in Mauritania, the Gambia, Guinea

Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, by raising their awareness of the status and ecological and economic value of mangroves, undertaking efforts aimed at restoring and/or conserving the ecosystem, and improving and harmonizing mangrove management policies through a negotiated process. It is being financed by the Swiss Foundation for the promotion of nature conservation (MAVA) through the IUCN, Wetlands, and the PRCM.

This project conducted the following activities during the first half of 2010:

The preparation of thematic studies on the ecological, economic, and social value of Mauritania's mangroves;

The organization of a workshop for each country in order to validate the thematic studies;

The launch of a study on the draft joint mangroves charter;

The organization of a series of workshops in the member countries to prepare the charter; and

Missions with communities to identify the conservation and restoration activities to be conducted.

### **II.9.9 CILSS's PREDAS program**

The Program for the Promotion of Domestic and Alternative Energies in the Sahel (PREDAS) is being executed in the context of the annual program estimates adopted by PREDAS's regional steering committee, in accordance with the terms of the financing agreement signed between the European Union and the CILSS.

The minutes of the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee held in Dakar, Senegal, stated that:

The National Technical Teams (ETN) bear full responsibility for implementing the program estimates at the national level, consistent with the guidelines outlined by PREDAS' national cooperation framework in Mauritania.

PREDAS's activities are part of the planning that has been documented and presented as the portfolio involving the DPCIE.

The various consultations have focused on progress with respect to adoption of the policy on the Domestic Energy Strategy (SED), which is a part of the NEAP approved by the Government. The executive secretary of the CILSS is scheduled to conduct a mission to raise awareness among member countries on this matter.

A Memorandum of Understanding in the form of a program estimate (DP3) was signed at the same time as the submission of supporting documentation pertaining to the preceding program estimate and the 2006 activity (DP3) drafted prior to the establishment of the State Secretariat.

Specialized documentation was handed over to the national facilitator for this program. It was immediately shared with all of the entities concerned with the issue of domestic energy in Mauritania.

### **II.9.10 The Environment Component of the Urban Development Program (UDP)**

The UDP-MDEDD partnership agreement seeks to specify the volume and nature of the support provided by the Government through the Urban Development Program (UDP) to the MDEDD, and the commitments made by the latter in the areas of coastal protection, regulations, and capacity building of the entities responsible for monitoring the urban environment.



Under this partnership agreement, the UDP undertakes to provide a subsidy to finance, up to a total of one hundred and twenty-eight million, eight hundred and thirty thousand Ouguiyas (UM 128,830,000), the activities set forth in Article 3 below.

Financeable activities under this agreement are as follows:

Support with regulations and standardization;

Revision of the framework law on the environment; and

A quantitative and qualitative assessment of waste from mechanical repair shops in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, characterization of biomedical waste (BMW) in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

### **II.9.11 Coastal Zone Protection**

This will entail a study on the assessment of flooding risks and on the confirmation of the coastal erosion model identified during the 2004 study.

This study seeks to assess the current situation along the coast with a view to addressing the most pressing risks. To that end, it should help to (i) assess the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 2004 study; (ii) measure changes in the current level of flood risk in the city of Nouakchott; (iii) confirm or adjust the calculation models presented in 2004; (iv) analyze the impact of major programs planned for the coastal zone; and (v) propose the necessary mitigation measures.

Support with the establishment of a coastal surveillance system

Institutional capacity building

Establishment indicators for urban poverty-environment interaction

Support with the EIS with the provision of cartographic and photographic materials

Technical training in the use of tools for analyzing the physical environment

Acquisition of IT and office equipment

### **II.9.12 Local Environmental Management and Mainstreaming into Public Policies**

The aim of this program is to ensure that public policies and programs have a significant and measurable impact on a number of Millennium Goals by:

Financing the piloting of models that have proved successful and/or the dissemination of these models to help foster innovation in development practices;

Adopting mechanisms that enhance the quality of aid, as stipulated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The specific objectives of this fund are to:

- Support the programs anchored in the national priorities, in keeping with the Paris Declaration;
- Ensure the sustainability of its investments;
- Apply the highest quality standards to program formulation, monitoring, and evaluation in a management framework based on results and accountability;
- Strengthen the national interagency planning and management systems across the country; and
- Reduce transaction costs associated with its management;

The program will have two outcomes:

- Implementation of a portfolio of participatory environmental and poverty reduction projects aimed at achieving the sustainable management of natural resources, promoting hygiene and sanitation, and securing national ownership; and
- Combating desertification and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources (FAO-WFP-UNDP).

Sub-outcome 1.1 Rehabilitation of the ecosystems in the zones targeted by the program

Sub-outcome 1.2 Increase in and diversification of the incomes of beneficiary populations

Sub-outcome 1.3 Strengthened community capacity in natural resource management techniques

### **II.9.13 GEF Component of the PDDO**

The specific objectives of the GEF component of the PDDO are to

- Build local organizational and management capacity and promote the effective participation of the oases communities, in particular women and young people, in community and local development processes;
  - Promote the sound and sustainable exploitation of the productive potential of the oases, particularly with respect to water resources;
  - Improve the living conditions of rural populations, in particular in terms of access to key social infrastructure;
  - Promote the increase in and diversification of the incomes of the most vulnerable rural communities, in particular through improved access to financial services and markets;
  - Develop a private community financial services network.
- Component 1 – Structuring of oases communities:
    - Building of participatory management capacity
    - Enhancement of the institutional and consultation framework for actors
    - Establishment of a community investment fund (FIC)
  - Component 2 – Sustainable development of the production capacity of the oases:
    - Diversification, scaling-up, and improvement of agricultural production
    - Development and protection of the date palm
    - Sustainable development of the environment
  - Component 3 – Support with community financial services and IGAs:
  - Component 4 – Basic economic and social infrastructure:
  - Component 5 – Program coordination and monitoring:

#### ***Expected outcomes:***

Sustainable management of the environment (Component 2):

- Combating of sand encroachment through the use of appropriate methods for the oases: use of local species;
- Rehabilitation and management of the space's natural resources in the area;
- Rehabilitation of the plant cover: protection zones, seeding;
- Establishment of local environmental protection committees;
- Organization of information and awareness-raising campaigns.

### ***Main partners***

Steering committee; project coordination unit (PCU), at the central level, responsible for coordination, financial oversight, drafting of reports, and liaising with national institutions (MAE) and donors. The PCU should be supervised by a national coordination committee composed of MAE directors, the director of finance in the MEF, MDE, and a representative from the oasis associations for each intervention zone, the four regional unit directors, and the project coordinator.

This committee should be responsible for managing the project and approving the PCU budget.

At the regional level, four regional oasis development units (URDOs) were planned for the wilayas of Adrar, Tagant, Assaba, and the two Hodh regions.

The planned activities are as follows:

Capacity building of the AGPOs

Support with the unions of AGPOs

Support with PDCO validation

Enhancement of the legal and consultation framework

Support with community initiatives through the implementation of community projects and IGAs

Scaling up, diversification, and improvement of crops

Environmental management

Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system

### **II.9.14 The Community-Based Watershed Management (CBWM) Project**

The CBWM is considered to be a component of the PDRC. The World Bank views this project as a partially blended operation. The project is aimed at reducing land degradation in watersheds and safeguarding critical ecosystem functions through community-driven sustainable land management activities.

The project is consistent with the Government's decentralization program, in view of the participation of regional, local, and traditional authorities. It will also promote the application of several other national strategies and policies related to the rural sector.

The specific objectives of the CBWM are to:

- Strengthen the capacity and intervention framework of the village communities and communes to facilitate the planning and implementation of technological approaches and promote investment for sustainable water and land management in watersheds and landscapes; and
- Improve the living conditions of village communities supported by the project in terms of access to basic services, the generation of agricultural and non-agricultural incomes, and sound management of natural resources by these communities.

The CBWM was organized into three components in addition to the one for the PDRC, which are as follows: Capacity building, Investment fund, management, and monitoring and evaluation.

***Expected outcomes:***

Generation of rural, non-agricultural incomes; rural policies and institutions; rural development; other aspects related to the Government; land management; and water resource management

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in October 1991 as a US\$1 billion pilot program in the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development.

The GEF would provide new and additional grants and concessional funding to cover the “incremental” or additional costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits.

The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Bank were the three initial partners implementing GEF projects.

In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF was restructured and moved out of the World Bank system to become a permanent, separate institution. The decision to make the GEF an independent organization enhanced the involvement of developing countries in the decision-making process and in implementation of the projects. Since 1994, however, the World Bank has served as the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund and provided administrative services.

As part of the restructuring, the GEF was entrusted to become the financial mechanism for both the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In partnership with the Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention on Ozone Layer Depleting Substances, the GEF started funding projects that enable the Russian Federation and nations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to phase out their use of ozone-destroying chemicals.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT**

GEF focal points play a critical coordination role regarding GEF matters at the country level and serve as the liaison with the GEF Secretariat and implementing agencies while representing their constituencies on the GEF Council.

GEF Political Focal Points and Operational Focal Points have different functions, although the exact specifications of the two designations may vary from country to country. All GEF member countries have Political Focal Points, while only recipient member countries eligible for GEF project assistance have Operational Focal Points.

GEF Political Focal Points are concerned primarily with issues related to GEF governance, including policies and decisions, as well as relations between member countries and the GEF Council and Assembly.

GEF Operational Focal Points are concerned with the operational aspects of GEF activities, such as endorsing project proposals to affirm that they are consistent with national plans and priorities and facilitating GEF coordination, integration, and consultation at country level.

## **GENERAL CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR THE NPFE**

Facing a gradual reduction in natural resource potential and the increasing pressure of challenges relating to the quality of environmental management and governance, the Mauritanian authorities have in recent years sought to implement and develop mechanisms to overcome these major challenges, with a view to better promoting the emergence of the most sustainable form of development in the country.

It is against this backdrop that the Mauritanian Government designed, and then adopted in 2006, a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) and a national environment action plan (NEAP) based on a myriad of thematic action plans and strategies.

Thus, the overall mandate of the Ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MDEDD) is to design and implement, in collaboration with the relevant actors, the Government's environment policy and ensure the integration of environmental imperatives into the country's socioeconomic development processes. As part of its mandate, the MEDD is, pursuant to Decree 190-2008 of October 19, 2008, responsible for promoting measures to mobilize the long-term financing required for the implementation of the various environmental management activities. This line of approach is clearly set forth in the policy declaration on environment and sustainable development (DPEDD) approved by the Government on March 17, 2011.

Indeed, the mobilization of financing is critical for the future of thematic programming and particularly for the three GEF focal areas: (i) climate change; (ii) biological diversity; and (iii) land degradation.

## **SPECIFIC CONTEXT AND STAR ALLOCATIONS FOR MAURITANIA**

Following the start of its fifth replenishment period in July 2010, the GEF has been making individual country allocations relating to the three GEF focal areas provided for under the expected program framework for the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). Consequently, there is an increasing interest on the part of GEF agencies to implement projects based on the comparative advantages of the various agencies, the number of which currently stands at ten.

It is in this context that the GEF Secretariat expressed the desire for beneficiary countries, once resources are available, to embark on a participatory and strategic planning process to select the most suitable GEF agencies and the best cost-effective solution.

In addition, once a country launches a voluntary strategic planning exercise, this exercise systematically becomes a prerequisite and a precondition for eligibility for the resources. This demonstrates the importance of this exercise.

### **GEF-5 allocation (STAR)**

Biological diversity:	US\$2.05 million
Climate change mitigation	US\$2 million
Land degradation	US\$2.87 million

In accordance with the procedures for access to STAR resources, Mauritania is on the list of countries with flexible allocations, that is, it can program its allocations for the three focal areas into one or two projects, or into three different thematic projects.

As indicated in the official document on GEF-5 programming, all recipient countries are encouraged to undertake, on a voluntary basis, GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercises that could serve as a basis for seeking GEF support. Portfolio formulation exercises will serve not only as a tool for setting country priorities throughout the replenishment period, but also as a guide for GEF agencies as they assist recipient countries.

The exercises will help indicate the programming directions to be undertaken by countries and should also help develop better regional programs/projects based on national priorities.

These exercises are coordinated by the GEF Operational Focal Points and can be organized in collaboration with GEF national committees and linked with other planning processes in the country, including any planning processes of GEF agencies.

Principles of transparency and inclusiveness of national stakeholders, including the community service organizations, will be encouraged in the exercises.

The objective, therefore, is to develop a country portfolio framework document to serve as a basis for GEF resource programming through a consultation process with the relevant government agencies and stakeholders. The committee is chaired by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and includes, among others, the ministries of environment, agriculture, industry, energy, planning, and finance, Convention Focal Points, GEF Agencies, the SGP national coordinator, as well as the representative of civil society and the private sector. The composition may be adjusted to take into account each country's circumstances.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE NPFE**

This exercise is aimed at helping the MDEDD to:

- > Disseminate recent information on execution procedures for GEF resources
- > Populate the environmental database with information on the baselines pertaining to the three GEF focal areas
- > Review all of the proposals submitted by GEF executing agencies seeking to execute a project under GEF-5 STAR
- > Review the comparative advantages of the various agencies
- > Examine the relevance of the various proposals made with respect to use of STAR resources
- > Agree on a final plan for the use of the entire STAR allocation, based on an inclusive, pragmatic, and strategic approach
- > Ensure the effective participation of civil society in such important processes as the revision of the framework law on the environment, the MEDD's institutional process, and the integration of linkages between poverty and environment into public policies

This exercise should also:

- Advocate for and communicate a shared vision of GEF principles and policies in Mauritania
- Facilitate the establishment of a framework for the organization, discussion, and promotion of joint actions for the governance of GEF projects

## **EXPECTED OUTPUT**

The expected output would be a document that identifies and describes a country's strategic priorities under each of the GEF focal areas plus an indicative list of project concepts that could be developed to achieve the objectives.



**BRIEF AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE GEF PORTFOLIO IN MAURITANIA**

Project	Financing	Agency	Status- observations	Key issue
<b>National Self-Evaluation of Capacity Building project (ANCR)</b>	US\$0.4 million	UNDP	This project led to an analysis of priority needs to be strengthened. It was closed but should [text missing]	Acceleration by the GEF of the approval process for the new project (ANCR) for Mauritania (submitted with UNDP)
<b>Biodiversity Project - Mauritania, Senegal</b>	US\$6 million	UNDP	Closed	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Second National Communication on Climate Change project</b>	US\$0.5 million	UNEP	Closed	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Community-Based Watershed Management (CBWM) project – GEF contribution (US\$6 million); implementation by the World Bank</b>	US\$6 million	World Bank	In progress	<b>N/A</b>

The GEF's portfolio in Mauritania is rapidly expanding with the inclusion of new subregional and regional projects and the interest demonstrated by several ministries in catalytic financing from the GEF.

The portfolio matrix appearing in the GEF's Secretariat information system is provided below.

<b>Third National Communication on Climate Change (TNC CC) project – US\$0.5 million</b>	US\$0.4 million	UNEP	Start-up phase	<b>Acceleration by the GEF of the approval process for the TNC project for Mauritania (submitted with UNEP)</b>
<b>Adaptation Plan for the Agriculture and Livestock Sectors (PANA)</b>	US\$3.5 million	FIDA	Formulation stage	<b>Cofinancing from the GEF's LDC Fund; however, Mauritania is still entitled to US\$1.5 million from this fund, but this financing cannot be put back into the project in progress with FIDA, but can instead be invested in another adaptation project. The GEF should be aware that Mauritania intends to select the latter option</b>
<b>Biodiversity project in the context of oil and gas mining (contribution)</b>	US\$1.2 million	UNDP	Start-up phase	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Sustainable Development of the Oases</b>	US\$4 million	FIDA	In progress	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Small Grants Programme (SGP)</b>	Unknown	UNDP	In progress The SGP is executed by UNDP	<b>N/A</b>

## **OVERVIEW OF ALLOCATIONS UNDER THE SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES (STAR)**

For the current GEF four-year cycle (GEF 5, 2010-2014), all countries receive an individual allocation in the following focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation.

Mauritania receives a budget of US\$6.9 million that can be used as authorities see fit, in accordance with the “flexible nature” of GEF modalities.

The amount of these allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) ranges from US\$6.66 million to US\$23.92 million for each member country of the Great Green Wall (GGW) Initiative. Each country may opt to assign all or a portion of its allocations to prepare projects under this initiative.

At the current stage of sectoral planning, the Ministry has already envisaged organizing the formulation of a major wind energy project (under the climate change mitigation window) in the amount of US\$2 million, which corresponds to the climate change budget allocated to Mauritania.

In any event, the Ministry is preparing to conduct the GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE), which is a key formulation and decision-making step relating to the opportunities for allocation of GEF resources. This exercise is designed and carried out simultaneously in all recipient countries of GEF resources.

## **NEW FINANCING UNDER THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND (LDCF)**

A new budget in the amount of US\$5 million has recently been allocated to Mauritania to carry out a second climate change adaptation project. This project could be implemented with the African Development Bank or the World Bank. It targets adaptation of the forestry sector and will be a major project.

## **REVIEW OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES NOTED WITH RESPECT TO THE UNCCD, UNFCCC, AND CBD**

### **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

In 1977, the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD). Unfortunately, in spite of this initiative, in 1991, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had to conclude that land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry subhumid areas had worsened despite a few isolated success stories.

In accordance with the strict timetable set, the Committee concluded negotiations in five sessions. The Convention was adopted in Paris on June 17, 1994 and was opened for signatures there on October 14 and 15 of the same year. It entered into force on December 26, 1996.

Mauritania signed the convention on October 14, 1994 and ratified it on August 7, 1996. The convention entered into force in Mauritania on December 26, 1996.

### **National Implementation Tool**

National Action Programs (NAP) are critical in implementation of the Convention. They are reinforced by Subregional Action Programs (SRAP) and Regional Action Programs (RAP). The National Action Programs are developed as part of a participatory approach involving the local communities, who define the practical measures and provisions needed to combat desertification in specific ecosystems. In this context, Mauritania submitted its National Action Program in 2002 and presented it to the Government in November 2006.

The designated national focal point for this convention is the Director of Nature Protection from the MDEDD.

### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Over a decade ago, most countries ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a view to exploring what could be done to reduce global warming and address an inevitable rise in temperatures.

In 1997, governments agreed to add an amendment to this treaty, the Kyoto Protocol, which contains stricter, legally binding measures. This Protocol entered into force on February 16, 2005.

Since 1988, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reviewed scientific research findings and provided governments with summary findings and advice on climate-related challenges.

Mauritania signed the convention on June 12, 1992 and ratified it on January 20, 1994. The convention entered into force in Mauritania on April 20, 1994.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change establishes a global framework for intergovernmental efforts to address the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource, the stability of which can be affected by industrial carbon dioxide emissions as well as other greenhouse gases.

National Implementation Tools:

- **The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)—currently being implemented.**
- **The National Strategy for the Clean Development Mechanism—not finalized.**

### **Reporting**

Mauritania drafted its Initial National Communication on July 30, 2002 and its Second National Communication on December 8, 2008. Preparation of the Third National Communication has just begun.

The designated national focal point for this convention is the MDEDD Head of Mission.

### **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity was established in Nairobi in May 1992 and opened for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro on June 5, 1992. It entered into force on December 29, 1993.

Mauritania signed the convention on June 12, 1992 and ratified it on August 16, 1996.

The objectives of this convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the following:

- The conservation of biological diversity,
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate [measures]
- Access to genetic resources and the appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources
- Access to technologies and adequate funding.
- National Strategy and Action Plan

Article 6 of the convention on the General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use states that each Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- Develop national strategies, plans, or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programs which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and;
- Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs, and policies.

In 1999, Mauritania prepared a draft national strategy and action plan on biological diversity.

### **Reporting:**

Mauritania has prepared its first, third, and fourth national reports on biological diversity. The designated focal point for this convention is the Deputy Director of Nature Protection.

## **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

On January 29, 2000 in Montréal, Canada, more than 130 countries adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This document is called the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in tribute to Colombia, which hosted the extraordinary meeting of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1999, precisely in Cartagena.

In accordance with the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of this Protocol is to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection for:

- the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.

Application of this convention is part of the National Strategy and Action Plan. It requires the preparation of a national biosafety framework and the drafting of national reports.

In accordance with Article 33 of the Protocol, each Party shall monitor the implementation of its obligations under this Protocol, and shall report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol (COP-MOP).

These reports discuss the measures taken in the application of the Protocol. In accordance with paragraph 5 of its decision BS-I/9, they are submitted every four years, 12 months prior to the COP-MOP meeting during which they will be reviewed.

Mauritania signed the convention on July 22, 2005 and acceded to it on October 20, 2005.

There was no report prepared by Mauritania.

The designated national focal point for this convention is the Deputy Director of Nature Protection.

## **General Government Policy on Biosafety**

The general policy of Mauritania is part of a sector-wide approach to agricultural development, health, and environment, in the context of good governance.

Over the past decades, Mauritania has experienced cycles of drought that have accelerated the rate of natural resource degradation, reduced commodities, and increased poverty in urban and rural areas.

Following the creation of a ministry responsible for the environment and the decentralization of activities, citizens are increasingly involved in managing their land, and strategies emerge aimed at defining the parameters of good governance. In particular, since April 2008, the Government has opted for a new economic policy strategy based on the following:

- Scaling up and diversification of agriculture;
- Sustainable natural resource management;

Poverty reduction.

In order to meet the bulk of its grain consumption needs, Mauritania imports from Europe, the United States, and Asia.

Despite facing considerable difficulties, public authorities have largely contributed to laying the foundation for biotechnology development as a result of scientific work and openness to the national private sector for the delivery of services that are greatly valued by citizens.

Natural resource protection is a top priority for public authorities. Mauritania has thus ratified most international conventions relating to environmental protection, and the provisions of these conventions in large part have been or will be incorporated into our domestic legislation. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which entered into force on September 11, 2003 and was ratified by Mauritania in 2004, is one of the key elements in establishing a regulatory mechanism for the transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms.

Each country had the opportunity to implement a legal framework that would allow it to implement the Cartagena Protocol guidelines, with the United Nations Environment Programme serving as facilitator.

### **Current Legal Environment**

Mauritania does not have a legal framework that is specific to biosafety; however, laws exist on the environment, seeds and pesticides, and plant protection.

Several major international conventions have been ratified by Mauritania, in addition to regional conventions, aimed at better protecting citizens and managing and improving environmental resources, in particular, biological diversity.

The existing environmental legislation, in particular Law No. 45-2000 on the environmental code, incorporates not only all the international conventions to which Mauritania is a party, but also places the State and local governments at the center of a participatory approach to the protection, management, and improvement of environmental resources, including those relating to the use of biotechnological processes with potentially negative effects on fauna and flora or that could have adverse impacts on biodiversity. The legal provisions also clearly define the implementation conditions as well as the various aspects to be considered in the environmental impact assessment, in particular the effects on the following:

- the health and well-being of citizens, environmental domains, ecosystems (including flora and fauna);
- agriculture, fisheries, and habitats (viewed as elements to be protected);
- the use of natural resources (regenerative and mineral).

At the subregional level, particularly in the context of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), a joint regulation on the approval of pesticides was drafted and introduced in 1974. Following this regulation, a Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP) was created, and a framework convention on seeds and biodiversity was approved in 2006 by the CILSS Council of Ministers.

At the national level, several decrees, orders, and laws were promulgated on the marketing of agro-pharmaceutical products.

Law No. 96-025 on seeds and Law No. 2000-042 on plant protection, as well as their implementing decrees covering regulation of the production, certification, and trade of seeds and plants, clearly define the conditions governing the introduction and use in Mauritania of new varieties, such as seeds.

Application of the pastoral code should help outline and ensure the paths toward measured and controlled introduction through existing entities (CNSP) until the specific conditions relating to GMOs and the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol are put in place. Indeed, application of this legislation in Mauritania would serve as a temporary measure to reduce the risks associated with varietal contamination and genetic pollution.



**Advisory Opinion on the Comparative Advantages of the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies**

Agency	Major Advantage Additional Advantage Specific Feature/Relevance	Cofinancing	GEF 5/STAR Candidacy	Comment/ Recommendation
<b>African Development Bank (AfDB)</b>	The AfDB draws its comparative advantage from its role as a regional development bank. The AfDB is just beginning its foray into environmental issues. Its environmental policy was recently approved and is on the verge of being put into operation. The AfDB will focus initially on developing experience in the implementation of environmental projects connected to the GEF with respect to climate change (adaptation, renewable energies, and energy efficiency), land degradation (deforestation, desertification), and international waters (water and fishery resource management).	Significant	No	Agency not selected
<b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>	<p>The comparative advantage of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is related to its being the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment for which the core business is the field of environment.</p> <p>UNEP has a comparative advantage in providing the GEF with a range of expertise, proof of concept, and testing of ideas and scientific knowledge upon which the GEF can base its investments.</p> <p>UNEP also serves as the Secretariat for three of the MEAs for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism. UNEP's comparative advantage also includes its ability to serve as a broker in multi-stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>With respect to adaptation, the UNEP website notes that "UNEP helps developing countries to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>UNEP builds and strengthens</p>	None	None	

	<p>national institutional capacities for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, and supports national efforts to integrate climate change adaptation measures into development planning and ecosystem management practices. The work is guided by and contributes to the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation. UNEP also promotes sustainable land-use management and reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation, bridging adaptation and mitigation.”</p>			
<b>Asian Development Bank</b>	<p>Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s comparative advantage includes investment projects at the country and multi-country level in Asia as well as the ability to incorporate capacity building and technical assistance into its projects.</p> <p>The ADB has strong experience in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, adaptation to climate change, and natural resources management, including sustainable land and water management.</p>	None	None	
<b>The World Bank</b>	<p>The World Bank’s comparative advantage is as a leading international financial institution in a number of sectors, similar to the comparative advantage of the regional development banks. The World Bank has extensive experience in development lending focused on institution building, infrastructure development, and policy reform across all the focal areas of the GEF.</p>	None	None	
<b>Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</b>	<p>The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)'s comparative advantage includes implementation of investment projects at the national and regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>The IDB finances operations related to the following GEF focal areas: Biodiversity (protected areas, marine resources, forestry, biotechnology)</p>	None	None	

	Climate Change (including biofuels), International Waters (watershed management), Land Degradation (erosion control), and Persistent Organic Pollutants (pest management).			
<b>European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</b>	The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s comparative advantage for LDCs lies in its experience in market creation and transformation, promoting sustainability through the private sector (including small and medium enterprises), and municipal environmental infrastructure projects at the national and regional level in the countries of eastern and central Europe and central Asia, particularly in the fields of energy efficiency, mainstreaming of biodiversity, and water management.	None	None	
<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b>	The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s comparative advantage for LDCs lies in its work related to land degradation, rural sustainable development, integrated land management, and its role in the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. IFAD works intensively in marginal lands, degraded ecosystems, and post-conflict situations.	None	None	
<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s comparative advantage lies in its global network of country offices, its experience in policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation. UNDP assists countries in promoting, designing, and implementing activities consistent with both the GEF mandate and national sustainable development plans.	None	Official	
<b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b>	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s comparative advantage comes from its technical capacity and experience in fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and natural resources management. The FAO	None	None	

	<p>has extensive experience in sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, bioenergy, biosafety, sustainable development in production landscapes, and integrated pest and pesticide management. The FAO's six priority action areas for climate change adaptation in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are: data and knowledge for impact assessment and adaptation; governance for climate change adaptation; livelihood resilience to climate change; conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity; innovative technologies; and disaster risk management.</p>			
<p><b>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</b></p>	<p>The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) encouraged participation of the industrial sector in GEF projects in the following areas: industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy services, water management, chemicals management (including POP and ODS), and biotechnology. UNIDO also has extensive knowledge of small and medium enterprises (SME's) in developing and transition economy countries.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	

## **ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTRAINTS, ALIGNMENT, AND SYNERGIES SOUGHT BETWEEN THE GEF PORTFOLIO UNDER GEF 5, THE PRSP, AND LOCAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

### **Main Thematic Constraints Identified**

#### ***Institutional and Political***

- Inadequate vertical and horizontal flow of thematic data, particularly with respect to baselines and monitoring indicators
- Extreme compartmentalization in the entities' activities, which implies a lack of participation
- Lack of a communication strategy
- Low level of enforcement of the provisions governing the themes;
- Lack of adaptation of a number of organic laws (e.g., the administrative map of the National Diawling Park not updated since 1999)
- Conflicting competencies between a number of entities (e.g., DPN and the mobile brigade and DPN and the regional services, particularly with respect to forestry)
- Lack of a national strategy for the sound and sustainable restoration and management of degraded land and forest and wildlife resources
- Lack of a national strategy for pasture protection
- Lack of reliable data on the country's forestry and wildlife resource potential
- Lack of a database and information system of the ministry's assessments, strategies, policies, and programs
- Lack of an appropriate legal framework on wildlife management and hunting
- Lack of an implementation decree for the Forest Code

#### ***Organizational and human***

- Mismatch between the ministry's organizational chart and its mission
- Lack of specialized high-level staff (foresters, environmentalists, ecologists, etc.) who are experienced and qualified in management positions in the ministry and public entities
- Lack of organization of management units into divisions, offices, and sections
- Lack of research, training, and retraining entities in environmental specialties
- Weak capacities of the management staff
- Lack of a statute on foresters and environmental inspectors
- Insufficient numbers and inadequate qualifications of staff at the central and regional levels
- Inadequate State budget allocations
- Insufficient donor resources
- Weak capacity to mobilize financing
- Lack of information exchange on financing opportunities arising from environmental conventions
- Lack of data on the multiple external micro-donations
- Insufficient infrastructure and equipment at the central and regional levels
- Lack of mobility and travel resources for missions at the central and regional levels

## STRATEGIC GUIDELINES SELECTED

The exercise resulted in the selection of the following strategic guidelines, which set forth the allocation of funds by theme.

- Promote the actions undertaken by public institutions, local governments, development partners, NGOs, or private enterprises.
- Develop a tool to assist with environmental decision-making. Identify the various sources of environmental information.
- Propose a mechanism for processing data and producing environmental indicators.
- Create and implement an environmental information system, with referencing, and coordinated within the MDEDD.
- Propose technical schemes conducive to creating synergy among all stakeholders involved in the issue. Define and implement microprojects to increase the number of paid, productive job opportunities for the poor in rural and periurban areas.
- Foster income-generating activities aimed at preserving forest fuels. Define and implement a national program to increase energy and economic efficiency in the use of forest fuels through the dissemination of improved cookstoves, following the critical reevaluation and review of prior strategies and experiences.
- Maintain and strengthen the policy of providing butane to households ("butanization"), with varying levels of demand (urban and rural).
- Define and implement an active pricing policy for wood-based fuels (particularly in urban areas) that promotes butanization through the taxation of forest fuels (pipelines in towns) as a veritable instrument of energy and forestry policy and not merely as an instrument of budgetary policy.
- Establish a pilot production unit of 0.5 metric tons of coal per day to test the production chain (desilting, briquetting, carbonization) and the acceptability of the coal and to lay the foundation for future coal promotion campaigns.
- Promote the use of kerosene.
- Continue research and development to build a corpus of knowledge of the feasibility of substituting kerosene for forest fuels. Launch a pilot project in Mauritania to promote kerosene.
- Complete the inventory of wetlands (zoning).
- Delegate management responsibility to local governments.

- Enhance sociocultural awareness of the human environment and establish a framework for participatory consultation.
- Draft a classification plan (protected status) for wetlands.
- Prepare a comprehensive list of the various civil society organizations.
- Strengthen coordination among existing organizations.
- Support national NGOs demonstrating potential for action (building professionalism, training, organization, participation in the financing of a number of development activities).
- Determine the degree of vulnerability of each group with respect to the production systems in rural areas.
- Design mechanisms adapted to supporting vulnerable groups.
- Develop and implement training and awareness-building plans for women.
- Promote and enhance women's experience in the area of energy management.
- Develop and disseminate a set of environmental best practices.
- Define the modalities for evaluating the carbon sink potential of reforested sites.
- Increase the rate of reforestation.
- Create landfills for urban waste in lieu of spontaneous combustion.
- Define the modalities for support to mitigation projects in the context of UNFCCC implementation (refrigeration industries: greenhouse effects of CFCs). Define the modalities for support to small and medium enterprises (air conditioning-refrigeration sector) with respect to climate change adaptation. Promote the use of alternative energy.
- Support the energy sector with respect to rural women.
- Support limitation of the use of wood-based fuels in rural areas.
- Promote the use of improved cookstoves.
- Promote the switch to butane as a household fuel.
- Define the modalities for support to climate change adaptation for Mauritania's agrarian system.
- Adapt irrigation systems.
- Restore inland wetlands.
- Enhance protection of the coastal dune belt.

- The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is implemented by the UNDP.
- In addition, the MAU allocated a portion of its GEF 5 budget.
- Develop the national parks, wildlife reserves, and existing classified forests.
- Improve ecological knowledge about protected areas.
- Prepare a reclassification and protection plan for protected areas of national or international importance.
- Formulate projects aimed at ensuring the protection and reintroduction of extinct or endangered species into their natural habitats.
- Promote research in the selection of quality seeds.
- Design conservation strategies for plants that produce recalcitrant seeds.
- Set up animal parks adapted to the ecological zones.
- Sensitize and educate local populations about the need to protect wildlife.
- Build a database on freshwater birds and an atlas of nesting birds native to Mauritania.
- Build a database on wild animals.
- Strengthen the legal framework for marine biodiversity management.
- Improve knowledge about fishery resources and their habitat.
- Protect and enhance wood-based resources through integrated forest development, classified with the participation of local populations.
- Enhance and promote the production and marketing of wood and non-wood species of economic, cultural, medicinal, and artisanal significance for citizens, in the interest of sustainable development.
- Diversify production through the combination of irrigated crops, flood-recession crops, and rainfed crops.
- Promote ecologically sound farming systems that are less devastating to the environment by enhancing livestock producers' accountability.
- Ensure better zoosanitary oversight, taking into account both domestic animals and wildlife in order to better preserve animal biodiversity.
- Compile and develop traditional knowledge.
- Support the introduction of traditional biotechnologies.
- Protect economic and social infrastructure against silting.



- Combat degradation of lands, flora, and fauna.
- Adapt vocational training to the current and future needs of the labor market in rural areas.
- Disseminate information widely on the CCD.
- Identify and share information on desertification through existing information channels (using NICTs).
- Compile and protect traditional knowledge about combating desertification
- Adapt training to market needs in rural areas.
- Identify the factors behind desertification.
- Design and use indicators for the monitoring, evaluation, and impact of desertification.
- Identify the unit and the mechanisms in the new structure.
- Provide the unit with the resources required for its operation.

• **TABLE ON THE ALLOCATION OF STAR RESOURCES**

<b>THEMATIC AREA</b>	<b>CONCEPT NOTE TITLE</b>	<b>STAR AMOUNT</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION</b>	Strategic framework for the promotion of renewable energy, with a focus on wind energy in west Mauritania.	<b>US\$ 2 MILLION</b>	<b>UNDP</b>
<b>LAND DEGRADATION</b>	Assessment of natural resources cover and current land use to scale-up sustainable land management in support of fighting desertification in Mauritania	<b>US\$ 1.5 MILLION</b>	<b>UNEP</b>
<b>LAND DEGRADATION</b>	Support for the protection and restoration of soils in three agro-sylvo-pastoral wilayas in Mauritania.	<b>US\$ 1.4 MILLION</b>	<b>UNDP</b>
<b>BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</b>	Stocktaking and update of National Biosafety Framework of Mauritania	<b>US\$ 2 MILLION</b>	<b>UNEP</b>
<b>BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</b>	Institutional capacity building and support for implementation of the CBD in Mauritania	<b>US\$ 1 MILLION</b>	<b>UNEP</b>



## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK**

The exercise resulted in the following recommendations:

- Allocate STAR resources in accordance with the matrix set forth under paragraph [text missing];
- Consider allocation to the Small Grants Programme on a straight-line basis as initially communicated to the Secretariat, i.e., 10 percent of allocations;
- Promptly issue the endorsement letters from the GEF Operational Focal Point;
- Take steps to promptly implement the procedures for launching planned projects in accordance with the operating procedures of the GEF agencies;
- Ensure monitoring of current allocations by means of a monitoring committee chaired by the Operational Focal Point.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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2. Decree establishing a National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development in Mauritania
3. Order establishing and launching the Regional Councils for the Environment and Development
4. Decree No. 2004-94 on the Environmental Impact Assessment
5. Law No. 55-2007 on the Forestry Code
6. Law No. 97-006 on Wildlife, Hunting, and the Protection of Nature
7. Law No. 2000-042 on Plant Protection
8. Decision No. 751 establishing a Network of Wetlands and monitoring of Water Bird Populations
9. Law No. 2000-24 establishing the Banc d'Arguin National Park
10. Implementing Decree No. 2006-058 of Law No. 2000-24 establishing the Banc d'Arguin National Park
11. Law No. 2000-025 on the Fisheries and Maritime Economy Code (2006-2008)
12. Ordinance No. 84-208 on the Hygiene Code
13. Law No. 2000-044 on the Pastoral Code
14. Law No. 98-016 on Participatory Management of Oases
15. Law 2005-030 on the Water Code
16. Ordinance No. 83-127 on the Reorganization of Land Tenure and State Land
17. Implementing Decree 89-2000 of Ordinance No. 83-127 on Reorganization of Land Tenure and State Land
18. Convention on Biological Diversity
19. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Montreal 2000
20. International Plant Protection Convention, text revised in November 1997
21. National Monograph on Biological Diversity in Mauritania, MDRE, DEAR, 1998
22. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2011-2015, Volume 1: Post Implementation Review, MAED 2010
23. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2011-2015, Volume 2: Action Plan 2011-2015, MAED 2010
24. National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD), SEE 2006
25. Operational program for implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (PO/NAPCD), SEE 2006

26. National Strategy for Sustainable Development, SEE 2006
27. National Environmental Action Plan, SEE 2006
28. National Program of Action on Climate Change Adaptation, MDRE 2004
29. Mauritania's Second National Communication on Climate Change, MDEDD, 2007
30. Mauritania's Environmental Profile, European Commission Delegation in Mauritania
31. Biomedical Waste Management Plan
32. Letter of Development Policy for the Urban Sector
33. Updating of the Mauritanian Sectoral Transport Plan
34. Rural Development Strategy - 2015
35. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
36. Strategy for Planning and Development of the Fisheries Sector and Maritime Economy
37. Letter of Development Policy for the Water Sector

**LIST OF 60 INSTITUTIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE NPFE FOR MAURITANIA  
(FULL LIST EXCEEDS 85)**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Full Name</b>
1	Country Focal Point - CDB	Cheikh Ould Sidi Mohamed
2	Country Focal Point - UNFCCC	Sidi Mohamed El Wavi
3	Country Focal Point - UNCCD	Ahmed O. Abdelfettah
4	UNDP Environment Thematic Leader	Chérif Kane
5	Environment Officer - FAO	Ahmeda Ould Mohamed Ahmed
6	Mauritania Small Grants Programme Coordinator	Amadou Bâ
7	CHAIR National Group of Pastoral Associations for livestock producers in Mauritania	Elhassen Ould Taleb
8	Public Sector Capacity Building Program (PRECASP) Representative/World Bank	Amina Mint Maouloud
9	Coordinator of the Oasis Sustainable Development Programme/GEF IFAD	Mohamedou Ould Mohamed Laghdaf
10	Director General of the Banc d'Arguin National Park	Mohamedou Youssouf Diagana
11	Director General of the Diawling National Park (PND)	Daf Ould Sehla
12	Director General of Investment Project Programming/Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development	Ahmed Ould Abdallahi
13	Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Program for West Africa (PRCM)	Ahmed Senhoury
14	Directorate of Policies, Cooperation, and Monitoring and Evaluation/Ministry of Rural Development	Cheikh O. Salem
15	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Klaus Mersmann
16	Special Program to Protect the City of Nouakchott	Bamody Diakité
17	Director of Protected Areas and Coastal Zones	Sidi Mohamed Ould Lehlou
18	NGO AGREEM	Banemou Tlayor
19	NGO ABDS	Mohamed O. Kerkoub
20	Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs	Moussa Beye
21	Ministry of Fisheries and the Maritime Economy	Mahfoud Ould Taleb Sidi
22	Ministry of Fisheries and the Maritime Economy	Mohamed Ould Mahjoub
23	Ministry of Energy and Petroleum	Ahmed Salem Ould Tekroun
24	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)	Paco Belafont
25	Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Program for West Africa (PRCM)	Barthelemy Butieno
26	Regional Environment Delegation	Ebnou Ould Ahmed
27	Regional Environment Delegation	Hademine Ould Moustapha
28	Regional Environment Delegation	Laghdaf Ould Mbareck
29	Regional Environment Delegation	Debellahi Ould
30	Regional Environment Delegation	Moussa Sall
31	Regional Environment Delegation	Ahmed O. Eyil
32	Agence Française de Développement	Eloise Orange
33	Embassy of Japan	Kawasaki Nayashima
34	European Union Delegation	Marie-Laure Robert

35	Mauritanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (CCIAIM)	Sidi Ould Kharchi
36	Mauritanian Institute for Oceanographic Research and Fisheries	Dieng Amadou
37	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	Mohamed Lemine O. Baba
38	Representative of the Institut Supérieur de l'Enseignement Technique (ISET)	Ahmed O. Mrabih
39	Former Minister	Dahmoud O Merzoug
40	Representative of the University of Nouakchott	Mohamed O. Djeugue
41	President of the OMDD	Mohamed O. Chah
42	Senior National Consultant	Bâ Amadou Diam
43	Senior National Consultant	Mohamed Sidi Ould Taleb
44	Senior National Consultant	Abdel Aziz Moulaye
45	National Consultant	Elhadj Ould Abdelfettah
46	Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment	Mohamed Yeslem Ould Mohamed Lemine
47	Technical Adviser for Sustainable Development/MDEDD	Sidaty Ould Dah
48	Director of Programming, Coordination, and Environmental Information (DPCIE)/GEF Political and Operational Focal Point	Mohamed Yahya Ould Lafdal
49	Patronat de Mauritanie	Seyid Ould Abdallahi
50	Representative of the Centre National d'Elevage et de Recherches Vétérinaires (CNERV)	Gako Mamadou
51	President of the NGO AMAN	Sektou M/ Mohamed Vall
52	President of Nature Verte	Yahya O. Mohamedou
53	Representative of the Institut National Recherche en Santé Publique (INRSP)/formerly the Centre National d'Hygiène (CNH)	Boudé Fofana
54	Action Carbone Solidaire	Mohamed O. Abdelfettah
55	NGO Khoumssane	Colonel Sow
56	ONF Action en Faveur de l'Environnement (AFE), GEF Accredited	Ahmed Vall Ould Boumouzouna
57	Consulting Firm	Hamoud Ould Sid'Ahmed
58	Consulting Firm	Souleymane SOW
59	NGO SOS Oasis	Mohamed O. Souleymane
60	DPCIE Secretary	Fatma Ould Messaoud



## GEF NATIONAL PORTFOLIO FORMULATION EXERCISE (NPFE) FOR MAURITANIA

1. All recipient countries will have access to GEF resources, up to \$30,000, to undertake, on a voluntary basis, GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercises. These will serve as a priority setting tool for countries and as a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries. Undertaking a NPFE is not a requirement or pre-requisite for requesting GEF grants.
2. To request support for this exercise, countries will use the template below to submit a proposal that includes a detailed description of the activities that will be carried out to produce the National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPF), as well as their expected cost.
3. These exercises might be organized by national steering committees,<sup>1</sup> coordinated by the GEF operational focal point, and linked with other planning processes in the country, including any planning processes of GEF Agencies. As the NPFE is to be carried out under direct access approach, countries should select the national entity that has the experience and competence to develop such an exercise. The financial management questionnaire attached to the template applies to this institution.
4. Principles of transparency and inclusiveness of national stakeholders, including civil society and community based organizations, will be encouraged in the exercises.
5. The GEF Operational Focal Point is responsible for submitting the application template duly filled. This will be considered as an endorsement for this activity.
6. The expected **Output** would be a document that identifies and describes a country's strategic priorities under each of the GEF focal areas plus an indicative list of project concepts that could be developed to achieve the objectives. Once the exercise is complete, the country will submit to the GEF Secretariat a report, following the suggested contents that are in Annex 2.
7. Submit the application in word format and in English language.
8. At the completion of the exercise, the country should submit an Audited Financial Report on how the money was spent.

**Please submit the proposal to the following GEF Secretariat account: [gefnpfe@thegef.org](mailto:gefnpfe@thegef.org)**

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<sup>1</sup> This committee could be chaired by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point, and include, inter-alia, the ministries of environment, agriculture, industry, energy, planning and finance, convention focal points, GEF Agencies, the SGP national coordinator, as well as representative of civil society and community based organizations and the private sector. The composition may be adjusted to take into account each country's circumstances.